

REMARKS:

The above amendments and following remarks are responsive to the points raised in the November 4, 2004 non-final Office Action. Upon entry of the above amendments, Claims 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8 will have been amended and new Claim 17 will have been added. Claims 1-17 will be pending. No new matter has been introduced. Entry and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Response to Claim Objection

Claims 2 and 8 have been objected to on the basis that “Claim 2 refers to a second and third detection device but does not mention a first detection device” and “Claim 8 refers to steps A, B, E, and F but does not mention steps C and D.” Correction is required.

Applicant has amended Claims 2 and 8 to overcome the objection. The amendments to dependent Claims 3 and 4, which depend from Claim 2, have been made to provide language consistency with the amendments to Claims 2. Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn.

Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,721,499 to Wantanabe et al. (Wantanabe). Applicant traverses this rejection.

The present application claims convention priority to Japanese application 2002-266873, filed September 12, 2002, thereby entitling the instant application to an effective 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) filing date of September 12, 2002, which is prior to the March 21,

2003 effective filing date of the Wantanabe patent. A comparison of the instant application with the drawings of the Japanese application, i.e., Japanese application 2002-266873, should sufficiently demonstrate that the features of the instant application are also disclosed in the Japanese application. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn.

Applicants are currently in the progress of obtaining an English language translation of the Japanese priority document, which will be filed as soon as the translation is received.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required for filing this Amendment and Request for Reconsideration to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-5143.

Respectfully submitted,

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